ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
FIREPROOFING OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

STAT **FROM:**
Chief, Safety Division
Office of Medical Services

EXTENSION | NO.

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. Chief, New Bldg. Project Office/OL 1 J 45 HQS		12/23	RCa	
2.				
3. Chief				
4.				
5.				
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STAT 10.				
11.				
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15.				

3: I didn't know we asked Safety to review this, did you? NO

GSA asked for comment as recommended 1/14/86

FORM 1-79 **610** USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

19 DEC 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, New Building Project Office
Office Of Logistics

STAT FROM: [redacted]
Chief, Safety Division,
Office of Medical Services

SUBJECT: Fireproofing of the New Headquarters Building

1. On 11 December 1985, a representative from the Occupational Health Branch, Safety Division, conducted an inspection of the fireproofing project at the new Headquarters Building. The inspection was conducted in response to employee concerns that the fibrous insulation which is used for the fireproofing may contain asbestos. A sample of this insulation was collected and forwarded to an accredited environmental laboratory for analysis. The sample results were negative for asbestos, and are compatible with the manufacturer's data as outlined in the attachment to this report.

2. It should be mentioned that the fireproofing on the secondary beams of the new Headquarters Building is to remain exposed in the suspended ceiling areas. This fireproofing will deteriorate with age and generate airborne fibers. Previous studies have found that suspended ceilings do not offer an effective barrier, and the fibers quickly disperse and contaminate occupied areas. The installation of conduit in the suspended ceiling areas will further accelerate the release of airborne fibers. While these non-asbestos airborne fibers do not pose a clear health hazard, they have been implicated in cases of respiratory distress. They also interfere with the operation of some electronic equipment.

3. During the 11 December 1985 inspection, it was also noted that some duct work to be installed in the new Headquarters Building had its interior lined with a fibrous insulation. This insulation helps prevent water condensation on the duct, and it doubles as an acoustical treatment. It also deteriorates with age and generates airborne fibers which are picked-up by the air handling units. Again, the non-asbestos airborne fibers do not pose a clear health hazard, but they have been implicated in episodes of respiratory distress.

4. In view of the above, the following recommendation are provided.

a. Consider sealing all the exposed fireproofing with a sealant. At present, the sealing of the fireproofing has only been specified for the UPS rooms, and sensitive electronic equipment areas.

b. Reduce the amount of interior fibrous duct insulation to an absolute minimum. Provide non-fibrous exterior duct insulation where possible.

5. Should additional information or assistance be necessary, please contact the Safety Division on extension

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